

Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, December 14, 1844, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, December 14, 1844

Private.

My dear Mr. Blair, Yours of the 30th ultimo is received and now before me. Your former, relating to your friend Mr. Marshall of Baltimore, when recd. a direct opportunity offering, I lost not a moment to forward it to Col. Polk with such favorable remarks as I thought the occasion meritted. I did this, as I found that letters for office was pouring in upon him from all quarters, and to bring Mr. Marshalls claims at once before him. When I see the Col. I will be sure to bring the subject to his view again.

I thank you for your labour and pains taken to have that arch, and lying old scamp, fairly brought before the public, and there is no pen better calculated to unrobe him than Mr. Ingersol, no man more capable—I have no doubt but Mr. Ingersol will do this with a hearty good will. I recd. 0365 341 from my friend Mr. Ingersol a letter, in which he made mention of the old scamp and his abuse, and that he should receive from him due notice in time. Please present my affectionate regards to Mr. Ingersol.

Our mutual friend Genl. Robert Armstrong spent part of Yesterday with me, from whom I confidentially learned some movements of some of our democratic friends, not of wisdom, but of folly, that would at once seperate the democratic party and destroy Polk, and would of course, drive you from the support of Polks administration and seperate the democratic party. I forthwith wrote to Col. Polk upon the subject and I am sure he will view it as I do,

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a wicked and concerted movement for Mr. Calhouns and Mr. Tylers political benefit. It is this, To amalgamate the Madisonian and what was the Spectator, and make that paper the organ of the Government to the exclusion of the Globe. I am sure Polk, when he hears it will feel as indignant at the plott as I do.

I will vouch for one thing and that is that Mr. Calhoun will not be one of Polks cabinet, nor any aspirant to the Presidency. This is believed to spring from Mr. Rhetts brain, inculcated into the brain of some of our pretended democratic politicians who want to be great men, but will never reach that hight. As your friend on the political watch tower I give you this confidential information, and by silence and care you will soon find the secrete movers of this weak, and wicked measure, that would at once divide and distract the republican party and dissolve it. unless the measures we have adopted here, may put it down you will soon see the movement in washington and I hope if attempted the whole democracy will rally around the Globe and prostrate the viper forever. This intrigue puts me in mind of Mr. Calhouns treachery to me and well worthy of a disciple of his.

But there is another project on foot as void of good sense and benefit to the democratic cause as the other, but not as wicked, proceeding from weak and inexperienced minds. It is this, to bring about a partnership between you and Mr. Richie, you to continue propriator, and Richie the Editor—this to me, is a most extraordinary conception coming from any well informed mind or experienced politi[cia]n. It is true Mr. Richie is an experienced Editor, but some times goes off at half cock, before he sees the whole ground, and does the party great injury before he sees his error, and then has great difficulty to get back into the right track again—witness his course on my removal of the deposits and how much injury he did us before he got into the right tract again. Another great faux-paux he made, when he went off with Rives, and conservatives and advocated for the safe keeping of the public revenue special deposits in the state Banks as if where the directory were corrupt there could be any more security in special deposits in corrupt Banks, than in general deposits and it was some time before this great absurdity could be beat out of his mind. These are visionary measures, and what I call weak politicians

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who suggest them but who wish to become great by foolish changes. Polk, as I believe, will stick by you faithfully, should he not he is lost, but I have no fears but that he will, and being informed, confidentially of this movement may have it in his power to put it all down.

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One thing I know, Genl. Armstrong and myself with all our influence will stick by you to the last. I am not at liberty to name names, but you will be able by silent watchfulness to discover those concerned, because the amalgamation of the Madisonian with Mr. Rhets paper will be at once attempted to be put in operation to carry out Mr. Tyler's administration, and attempt to become the administration paper under Polk, And the copartnership between you and Mr. Richie broached to you by some of your friends, and his, I therefore give you this information that you may not be taken by surprise. There will be great intrigue going on at Washington this winter, and if I mistake not Mr. Polk, he will throw the whole to the Bats and the wind. He has energy enough to give himself elbow room under all or any circumstances and you may rest assured he will have none in his cabinet that are aspiring to the Presidency. I write you in confidence and will soon again write you—you may rest assured in my friendship, all the politicians on earth can never shake it, I wish to see you the organ of the democratic party as long as you own a paper, and as long as the party is true to itself you will be its organ and true to its principles. I am very weak and must close with one remark with regard to our friend Col. Benton. If he will introduce a Bill for the reannexation of Texas on the basis of the Treaty of cession of 1803, He may restore himself to that high confidence that he once had in the democracy, should he not, I fear the time is past to regain it, which I would sincerely regret. . . .